INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State P.O. 14 VIET-S

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Action ECON AGVV R 220641Z SEP 66
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STATE GRNC
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AII C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6622

SEPTEMBER 22

AL
O FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON, INFO HUE, QUOTE:

SIA DANANG 134

SC SEPTEMBER 20

NR
IA 1. FOR PAST FEW WEEKS LOW LEVEL RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED IN DANANG
SA AREA THAT VNQDD WAS RENEWING EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE PARTY AND
OD ELIMINATE FACTIONALIZATION. ON BASIS OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS
TO WITH MOST VNQDD CANDIDATES ELECTED IN I CORPS AS WELL AS WITH
SEVERAL REGIONAL PARTY BOSSES CONCLUDE THAT CENTRAL VIETNAM
SR QDD IS AS FACTIONALIZED AS EVER, PARTICULARLY ON PARTY RELATED
MATTERS. BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT SIMILIARITIES IN BASIC POSITION
VARIOUS FACTIONS VNQDD IN CENTRAL VIETNAM MAY WELL ENCOURAGE
A CERTAIN DEGREE OF UNITY DURING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

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2. DURING LATTER PHASES OF RECENT STRUGGLE VNQDD THIS AREA
PRESENTED FACADE OF CONSIDERABLE PARTY UNITY AND OF COOPERATION
WITH VARIOUS OTHER NATIONALIST POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS GROUPS
AGAINST STRUGGLE FORCES. DEFEAT OF STRUGGLE MOVEMENT AND GVN
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD, HOWEVER, REMOVED
OUTSIDE THREAT TO PARTY AND AT SAME TIME STIMULATED
CONSIDERABLE JOCKYING FOR POWER BETWEEN VARIOUS PARTY FACTIONS.

FACADE OF PARTY SOLIDARITY DISAPPEARED AND COOPERATION WITH
OTHER GROUPS MELTED AWAY.

3. CONCLUSION OF INTER FACTION MANUVERING FOR VOTES DURING PRE-
ELECTION PERIOD HAS ONCE AGAIN PERMITTED THE PARTY TO
ESTABLISH SEMBLANCE OF UNITY AND PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR RUMORS
MENTIONED PARA ONE ABOVE. NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OCCURRED DURING
ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, AND STRENGTH OF VARIOUS FACTIONS REMAINS-

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Ingalls DATE: 10/5/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. READ(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Saigon R

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ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE THE ELECTION. MANY PERSONAL FEUDS STILL SEPARATE VARIOUS LEADERS.

4. DURING CONSTITUTION DRAFTING CENTRAL VIETNAM QDD ASSEMBLYMEN CAN BE EXPECTED TO COOPERATE TO IMPROVE THEIR LOCAL POWER POSITIONS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES. EVEN THERE, HOWEVER, THERE IS POTENTIALLY AT LEAST SOME ROOM FOR DISAGREEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE,

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 6622 C O N F I D N T I A L
MOST VNQDD LEADERS BELIEVE PO ARLY ELECTED LOCAL GOVTS WOULD WORK TO THEIR ADVANTAGE AND SO MIGHT TRY TO WRITE A PROVISION FOR THIS INTO CONSTITUTION. SOME WEAKER FACTION LEADERS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD WORK TO THEIR OWN PERSONAL DISADVANTAGE AND MIGHT EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO OPPOSE SUCH A PROVISION.

5. NO MATTER HOW MUCH UNITY APPEARS TO EXIST WITHIN PARTY DURING CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING PROCESS IT IS UNLIKELY TO RUN VERY DEEP OR TO LAST VERY LONG. ASSUMING CONSTITUTION CALLING FOR POPULARLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE IS DRAFTED AND ASSUMING THAT IN THE MEANTIME NO OUTSIDE THREAT TO PARTY DEVELOPS, BASIC FACTIONALIZATION WITHIN CENTRAL VIETNAM QDD CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE AND MORE APPARENT AS ELECTIONS APPROACH ONCE AGAIN. ANY COALITIONS WHICH THE PARTY ENGAGES IN AT THIS POINT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE VERY TEMPORARY IN NATURE. GP-3. FRANCIS

UNQUOTE LODGE

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